(b) the amount released during 2001 -02 and 2002-03 for the functioning of these clubs;

(c) the number of Government and private schools in Kamataka which have been identified by the district level committees for setting up these eco-clubs;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up more number of eco-clubs in Kamataka during 2003-04; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTEROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) 2128 eco-clubs have started functioning in Kamataka under the National Green Corps programme.

(b) Rs 24.33 lakhs during 2001-02 and Rs 15.34 lakhs during 2002-03 were released under the programme to Kamataka.

(c) 1641 Government Schools and 487 private schools are participating in the programme.

(d) and (e) 572 more eco-clubs are to be set up in Kamataka taking the total number of eco-clubs in the State to 2700.

Forest Cover in Assam

5171. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the forest cover in Assam is drastically decreasing against its increase in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a great paucity of funds in the State forest department to maintain the forest properly; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Centre in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV). (a) and (b) According to the State of Forest Report, 2001 the forest cover of Assam is 27,714 sq. km. as against 23,688 sq. km. reported in the previous report of 1999.

(c) Subject to availability of financial resources, the State of Assam have been providing funds for forest conservation and development.

(d) The Central Government have been providing funds to the State of Assam under various ongoing Central Sponsored Schemes for identified works of forest conservation and development.